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Platon N. Mandros
BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404

EXAMINER

DUONG, THOMAS

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2145

DATE MAILED: 03/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/880,039

Applicant(s)

KATSUDA, TAKEO

Examiner

Thomas Duong

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Request for Continued Examination

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.
2. Amendment received December 30, 2005 has been entered into record. *Claims 1-46* remain pending.

Response to Amendment

3. This office action is in response to the applicants Amendment filed on December 30, 2005. Applicant amended *claims 1*. *Claims 1-46* are presented for further consideration and examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.
5. *Claims 40-43* are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claims contains subject matter, which is not described

in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The specification does not show how the computer program stored in a computer readable medium can perform the modules claimed. Please clarify the language of the claim.

6. Claims 40-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The specification does not disclose the computer readable medium as claimed. Please clarify the language of the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

7. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

8. Claims 40-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claims are not limited to tangible embodiments since they are stored on an unspecified computer readable medium as claimed. As such, the claim is not limited to statutory subject matter and is therefore non-statutory. To overcome this type of 101 rejection the claims need to be amended to include only the physical computer media and not a transmission media or other intangible or non-functional media. For the specification at the bottom, carrier medium and transmission media would be not statutory but storage media would be statutory.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

10. Claims 1-31 and 37-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Miller et al. (US006421707B1).

11. With regard to claims 1, 15, and 37-43, Miller discloses,

- *an E-mail receiving device (service controller 713) receiving E-mail addressed to a certain destination; (Miller, col.1, lines 47-51, lines 54-58; col.3, lines 33-38; col.9, lines 24-28; fig.7)*

Miller teaches of an environment where an email addressed to an addressee (i.e. subscriber) from the Internet is received at the service controller and a receipt notification is selectively generated and delivered to the addressee.

- *an E-mail preparing device preparing receipt notice E-mail based on the E-mail received by said E-mail receiving device; (Miller, col.1, lines 52-55; col.4, lines 40-43; col.9, lines 41-46)*

Miller teaches of an environment where a receipt notification is generated and delivered to the addressee. Miller's environment allows the subscriber the ability

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to customize the message receipt notification through the use of a user-specific agent.

- *an E-mail transmitting device transmitting the receipt notice E-mail prepared by said E-mail preparing device to said destination;* (Miller, col.1, lines 52-55; col.9, lines 41-46)

Miller teaches of an environment where a receipt notification is generated and delivered to the addressee.

- *a location information acquiring device acquiring location information of said destination;* (Miller, col.2, lines 58-64; col.4, lines 40-60; col.5, lines 1-7)

Miller teaches of step of locating the addressee (i.e. subscriber) *"according to the rules he [has] previously established (or defaulted to, as appropriate)"* (Miller, col.5, lines 2-3). According to Miller, *"the ability for a user (recipient) to define a set of rules that determine how/when messages and their notification are to be treated ... such as a permanent rule (SMS notification to Thomas' handset) and a vacation rule (e.g., hold messages but notify Thomas at his hotel telephone), ... etc., are easily envisioned and implemented as appropriate"* (Miller, col.4, lines 49-60). In addition to the established rules, the fact that the message was delivered to the user via the wireless device is evidence that the user was located. When the user receives the message notifying of the impending e-mail and attachments, the user can choose the appropriate outputting device. Hence, Miller describes a method of locating the subscriber via established rules, in addition to the actual wireless device, and determining the appropriate outputting device to which the notification message is directed.

- *a selecting device selecting one of multiple image output devices on the basis of the location information acquired by said location information acquiring device; and* (Miller, col.1, lines 47-58; col.2, lines 58-64; col.4, lines 40-60; col.5, lines 1-7, lines 35-49; col.6, lines 14-19; col.9, lines 40-46)

Miller teaches of an environment where an email addressed to an addressee (i.e. subscriber) from the Internet is received at the service controller, a receipt notification is selectively generated and delivered to the addressee, the addressee is located and finally the intended email is displayed to the subscriber or outputted to a device (i.e. facsimile) according to subscriber's preference. Furthermore, Miller teaches of step of locating the addressee (i.e. subscriber) *"according to the rules he [has] previously established (or defaulted to, as appropriate)"* (Miller, col.5, lines 2-3). According to Miller, *"the ability for a user (recipient) to define a set of rules that determine how/when messages and their notification are to be treated ... such as a permanent rule (SMS notification to Thomas' handset) and a vacation rule (e.g., hold messages but notify Thomas at his hotel telephone), ... etc., are easily envisioned and implemented as appropriate"* (Miller, col.4, lines 49-60). Hence, Miller describes a method of locating the subscriber via established rules and determining the appropriate outputting device to which the notification message is directed.

- *a notifying device that sends an E-mail to said destination containing a notification of the image output device selected by said selecting device; and* (Miller, col.1, lines 47-58; col.2, lines 58-64; col.5, lines 35-49; col.6, lines 14-19; col.9, lines 40-46)

Miller teaches of an environment where an email addressed to an addressee (i.e. subscriber) from the Internet is received at the service controller, a receipt notification is selectively generated and delivered to the addressee, the addressee is located and finally the intended email is displayed to the subscriber or outputted to a device (i.e. facsimile) according to subscriber's preference.

According to Miller, the *"delivery subsystem 160 handles the actual delivery of output of service complex 101. Importantly, the output need not be a 'message' but could simply be notification that a message has been received, [and that] ... the delivery subsystem 160 can handle a variety of output formats, voice/fax 162, short message 161, and e-mail 163"* (Miller, col.3, lines 33-38).

- *a data transmitting device transmitting at least a portion of the data of the E-mail received by the E-mail receiving device to the image output device selected by the selecting device. a selecting device selecting one of multiple image output devices on the basis of the location information acquired by said position acquiring device; and* (Miller, col.1, lines 47-58; col.2, lines 58-64; col.5, lines 35-49; col.6, lines 14-19; col.9, lines 40-46)

Miller teaches of an environment where an email addressed to an addressee (i.e. subscriber) from the Internet is received at the service controller, a receipt notification is selectively generated and delivered to the addressee, the addressee is located and finally the intended email is displayed to the subscriber or outputted to a device (i.e. facsimile) according to subscriber's preference.

12. With regard to claims 2 and 16, Miller discloses,

- *wherein said E-mail preparing device prepares the receipt notice E-mail based on the content of a main text portion of the E-mail received by the E-mail receiving device. (Miller, col.1, lines 47-58; col.3, lines 33-38; col.5, lines 22-27; fig.4(g, h))*

Miller teaches of an environment where an email addressed to an addressee (i.e. subscriber) from the Internet is received at the service controller and a receipt notification is selectively generated and delivered to the addressee.

Furthermore, Miller anticipates that the notification message may contain the body of the email text.

13. With regard to claims 3-5 and 17-19, Miller discloses,

- *wherein said E-mail preparing device prepares the receipt notice E-mail by removing an attachment file portion of the E-mail received by the E-mail receiving device. (Miller, col.1, lines 47-58; col.3, lines 33-38; col.5, lines 22-27; fig.4(g, h, i); fig.4(m))*

Miller teaches of an environment where an email addressed to an addressee (i.e. subscriber) from the Internet is received at the service controller and a receipt notification is selectively generated and delivered to the addressee.

Furthermore, Miller anticipates that the notification message may contain the body of the email text. Miller shows in figures 4(i) and 4(m) that the attachments are listed separately to allow the subscriber the ability to retrieve it if desired after converting the attachment to the appropriate format.

- *wherein said data transmitting device transmits data corresponding to the attachment file portion of the E-mail received by the E-mail receiving device.*

(Miller, col.1, lines 47-58; col.3, lines 33-38; col.5, lines 22-27; fig.4(g, h, i);

fig.4(m))

Miller teaches of an environment where an email addressed to an addressee (i.e. subscriber) from the Internet is received at the service controller and a receipt notification is selectively generated and delivered to the addressee.

Furthermore, Miller anticipates that the notification message may contain the body of the email text. Miller shows in figures 4(i) and 4(m) that the attachments are listed separately to allow the subscriber the ability to retrieve it if desired after converting the attachment to the appropriate format.

- *further comprising a converting device converting the attachment file portion of the E-mail received by the E-mail receiving device into data of a format acceptable to the image output device; wherein, said data transmitting device transmits the data after the conversion by said converting device.* (Miller, col.1, lines 47-58; col.3, lines 33-38; col.5, lines 22-27; fig.4(g, h, i); fig.4(m))

Miller teaches of an environment where an email addressed to an addressee (i.e. subscriber) from the Internet is received at the service controller and a receipt notification is selectively generated and delivered to the addressee.

Furthermore, Miller anticipates that the notification message may contain the body of the email text. Miller shows in figures 4(i) and 4(m) that the attachments are listed separately to allow the subscriber the ability to retrieve it if desired after converting the attachment to the appropriate format.

14. With regard to claims 6-7 and 20-21, Miller discloses,

- *wherein said data transmitting device transmits the data corresponding to the attachment file portion of the E-mail received by the E-mail receiving device.*

(Miller, col.1, lines 47-58; col.3, lines 33-38; col.5, lines 22-27; fig.4(g, h, i); fig.4(m))

Miller teaches of an environment where an email addressed to an addressee (i.e. subscriber) from the Internet is received at the service controller and a receipt notification is selectively generated and delivered to the addressee.

Furthermore, Miller anticipates that the notification message may contain the body of the email text. Miller shows in figures 4(i) and 4(m) that the attachments are listed separately to allow the subscriber the ability to retrieve it if desired after converting the attachment to the appropriate format.

15. With regard to claims 8-11, 22-25, and 28-29, Miller discloses,

- *wherein said selecting device selects image output devices within a certain distance from said destination.* (Miller, col.1, lines 47-58; col.3, lines 33-38; col.5, lines 22-27; col.6, lines 9-19; fig.4(g, h, i); fig.4(m))

Miller teaches of a step of listing the available retrieval methods and allowing the subscriber to choose the desired delivery method.

- *wherein said selecting device selects an image output device closest from said destination.* (Miller, col.1, lines 47-58; col.3, lines 33-38; col.5, lines 22-27; col.6, lines 9-19; fig.4(g, h, i); fig.4(m))

Miller teaches of a step of listing the available retrieval methods and allowing the subscriber to choose the desired delivery method.

- *wherein said selecting device including:*

- *a list preparing device preparing a list of image output devices within a certain distance from said destination;*
- *a list transmitting device transmitting the list prepared by said list preparing device to said destination; and*
- *a selection instruction receiving device receiving an instruction for specifying one of the image output devices in the list. (Miller, col.1, lines 47-58; col.3, lines 33-38; col.5, lines 22-27; col.6, lines 9-19; fig.4(g, h, i); fig.4(m))*

Miller teaches of a step of listing the available retrieval methods and allowing the subscriber to choose the desired delivery method.

16. With regard to claims 12-13, 26-27, and 30, Miller discloses,

- *wherein said data transmitting device transmits the data to an image output device specified by a telephone number. (Miller, col.1, lines 47-58; col.3, lines 33-38; col.5, lines 22-27; fig.4(g, h, i); fig.4(m))*

Miller teaches of a plurality of delivery methods such as email, fax, messaging, voice, etc. Alternative methods of delivering the data include the Internet, printer, display, etc.

17. With regard to claims 14, 31, and 44-46, Miller discloses,

- *an E-mail receiving device receiving E-mail including a main text portion and an attachment file portion and being addressed to a certain destination; (Miller, col.1, lines 47-51, lines 54-58; col.3, lines 33-38; col.9, lines 24-28; fig.7)*

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Miller teaches of an environment where an email addressed to an addressee (i.e. subscriber) from the Internet is received at the service controller and a receipt notification is selectively generated and delivered to the addressee.

- *an E-mail preparing device preparing receipt notice E-mail by removing the attachment file portion from the received E-mail;* (Miller, col.1, lines 47-58; col.3, lines 33-38; col.5, lines 22-27; fig.4(g, h, i); fig.4(m))

Miller teaches of an environment where an email addressed to an addressee (i.e. subscriber) from the Internet is received at the service controller and a receipt notification is selectively generated and delivered to the addressee.

Furthermore, Miller anticipates that the notification message may contain the body of the email text. Miller shows in figures 4(i) and 4(m) that the attachments are listed separately to allow the subscriber the ability to retrieve it if desired after converting the attachment to the appropriate format.

- *an E-mail transmitting device transmitting to said destination the receipt notice E-mail prepared by said E-mail preparing device and an E-mail identifying multiple prospective image output devices;* (Miller, col.1, lines 47-58; col.2, lines 58-64; col.5, lines 35-49; col.6, lines 14-19; col.9, lines 40-46)

Miller teaches of an environment where an email addressed to an addressee (i.e. subscriber) from the Internet is received at the service controller, a receipt notification is selectively generated and delivered to the addressee, the addressee is located and finally the intended email is displayed to the subscriber or outputted to a device (i.e. facsimile) according to subscriber's preference.

According to Miller, the *"delivery subsystem 160 handles the actual delivery of output of service complex 101. Importantly, the output need not be a 'message'*

but could simply be notification that a message has been received, [and that] ... the delivery subsystem 160 can handle a variety of output formats, voice/fax 162, short message 161, and e-mail 163" (Miller, col.3, lines 33-38).

- *an instruction receiving device receiving an E-mail including an instruction for specifying one of multiple image output devices; (Miller, col.5, lines 35-49)*

Miller teaches of a step where the subscriber specifies the desired method of retrieval of the email as well as the attachments.

- *a converting device converting the attachment file portion into data of a format acceptable to the image output device; and (Miller, col.1, lines 47-58; col.3, lines 33-38; col.5, lines 22-27; fig.4(g, h, i); fig.4(m))*

Miller teaches of an environment where an email addressed to an addressee (i.e. subscriber) from the Internet is received at the service controller and a receipt notification is selectively generated and delivered to the addressee.

Furthermore, Miller anticipates that the notification message may contain the body of the email text. Miller shows in figures 4(i) and 4(m) that the attachments are listed separately to allow the subscriber the ability to retrieve it if desired after converting the attachment to the appropriate format.

- *a data transmitting device transmitting said data after the conversion to the image output device specified by said instruction. (Miller, col.1, lines 47-58; col.3, lines 33-38; col.5, lines 22-27; fig.4(g, h, i); fig.4(m))*

Miller teaches of an environment where an email addressed to an addressee (i.e. subscriber) from the Internet is received at the service controller and a receipt notification is selectively generated and delivered to the addressee.

Furthermore, Miller anticipates that the notification message may contain the

body of the email text. Miller shows in figures 4(i) and 4(m) that the attachments are listed separately to allow the subscriber the ability to retrieve it if desired after converting the attachment to the appropriate format.

18. Claims 32-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Theimer et al. (US005493692A).

19. With regard to claims 32-36, Theimer discloses,

- *a receiving device receiving E-mail from an E-mail controlling apparatus;*

(Theimer, col.8, lines 40-58; col.9, lines 7-20; col.24, lines 8-48; fig.16)

Theimer teaches of an environment where a message is received at a portable terminal unit, the available delivery methods based on the location of the subscriber are detected, and delivering the data to the appropriate output or display device.

- *a detecting device detecting the location of said portable terminal unit; and*

(Theimer, col.8, lines 40-58; col.9, lines 7-20; col.24, lines 8-48; fig.16)

Theimer teaches of an environment where a message is received at a portable terminal unit, the available delivery methods based on the location of the subscriber are detected, and delivering the data to the appropriate output or display device.

- *an acquiring device acquiring the data that indicates an image output device selected on the basis of the location detected by said detecting device. (Theimer, col.8, lines 40-58; col.9, lines 7-20; col.24, lines 8-48; fig.16)*

Theimer teaches of an environment where a message is received at a portable terminal unit, the available delivery methods based on the location of the subscriber are detected, and delivering the data to the appropriate output or display device.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

20. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

21. Claims 1-32 and 36-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller (US006421707B1) and in view of Theimer et al. (US005493692A).

22. With regard to claims 1, 14-15, 31-32, and 36-43, Miller discloses,

- *an E-mail receiving device (service controller 713) receiving E-mail addressed to a certain destination; (Miller, col.1, lines 47-51, lines 54-58; col.3, lines 33-38; col.9, lines 24-28; fig.7)*

Miller teaches of an environment where an email addressed to an addressee (i.e. subscriber) from the Internet is received at the service controller and a receipt notification is selectively generated and delivered to the addressee.

- *an E-mail preparing device preparing receipt notice E-mail based on the E-mail received by said E-mail receiving device; (Miller, col.1, lines 52-55; col.4, lines 40-43; col.9, lines 41-46)*

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Miller teaches of an environment where a receipt notification is generated and delivered to the addressee. Miller's environment allows the subscriber the ability to customize the message receipt notification through the use of a user-specific agent.

- *an E-mail transmitting device transmitting the receipt notice E-mail prepared by said E-mail preparing device to said destination;* (Miller, col.1, lines 52-55; col.9, lines 41-46)

Miller teaches of an environment where a receipt notification is generated and delivered to the addressee.

- *a notifying device that sends an E-mail to said destination containing a notification of the image output device selected by said selecting device; and* (Miller, col.1, lines 47-58; col.2, lines 58-64; col.5, lines 35-49; col.6, lines 14-19; col.9, lines 40-46)

Miller teaches of an environment where an email addressed to an addressee (i.e. subscriber) from the Internet is received at the service controller, a receipt notification is selectively generated and delivered to the addressee, the addressee is located and finally the intended email is displayed to the subscriber or outputted to a device (i.e. facsimile) according to subscriber's preference.

According to Miller, the *"delivery subsystem 160 handles the actual delivery of output of service complex 101. Importantly, the output need not be a 'message' but could simply be notification that a message has been received, [and that] ... the delivery subsystem 160 can handle a variety of output formats, voice/fax 162, short message 161, and e-mail 163"* (Miller, col.3, lines 33-38).

- *a data transmitting device transmitting at least a portion of the data of the E-mail received by the E-mail receiving device to the image output device selected by the selecting device. a selecting device selecting one of multiple image output devices on the basis of the location information acquired by said position acquiring device; and* (Miller, col.1, lines 47-58; col.2, lines 58-64; col.5, lines 35-49; col.6, lines 14-19; col.9, lines 40-46)

Miller teaches of an environment where an email addressed to an addressee (i.e. subscriber) from the Internet is received at the service controller, a receipt notification is selectively generated and delivered to the addressee, the addressee is located and finally the intended email is displayed to the subscriber or outputted to a device (i.e. facsimile) according to subscriber's preference.

Even though Miller discloses the locating and selecting steps as the Examiner explained in the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection above, the Examiner will present another reference, Theimer (US005493692A), that clearly teaches the locating the subscriber device and selecting the appropriate output method base on the location of the subscriber.

Theimer teaches,

- *a location information acquiring device acquiring location information of said destination; (Theimer, col.8, lines 40-58; col.9, lines 7-20; col.24, lines 8-48; fig.16)*

Theimer teaches of an environment where a message is received at a portable terminal unit, the available delivery methods based on the location of the subscriber are detected, and delivering the data to the appropriate output or display device.

- *a selecting device selecting one of multiple image output devices on the basis of the location information acquired by said position acquiring device; and* (Theimer, col.8, lines 40-58; col.9, lines 7-20; col.24, lines 8-48; fig.16)

Theimer teaches of an environment where a message is received at a portable terminal unit, the available delivery methods based on the location of the subscriber are detected, and delivering the data to the appropriate output or display device.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Theimer with the teachings of Miller to selectively deliver messages to a subscriber of the wireless service base on the available as well as appropriate output or display methods in proximity to the subscriber. According to Theimer, it is advantageous to *"provide a system in which the delivery of electronic messages to a particular user or users may be selective, depending upon the context or state of the user or users. Furthermore, appropriate computing devices for particular actions, such as delivery of electronics messages, are selected based on the environment in proximity to the user in relation to the properties of the message"* (col.4, lines 5-12).

23. With regard to claims 2 and 16, Miller and Theimer disclose,

- *wherein said E-mail preparing device prepares the receipt notice E-mail based on the content of a main text portion of the E-mail received by the E-mail receiving device.* (Miller, col.1, lines 47-58; col.3, lines 33-38; col.5, lines 22-27; fig.4(g, h))

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Miller teaches of an environment where an email addressed to an addressee (i.e. subscriber) from the Internet is received at the service controller and a receipt notification is selectively generated and delivered to the addressee.

Furthermore, Miller anticipates that the notification message may contain the body of the email text.

24. With regard to claims 3-5 and 17-19, Miller and Theimer disclose,

- *wherein said E-mail preparing device prepares the receipt notice E-mail by removing an attachment file portion of the E-mail received by the E-mail receiving device.*
- *wherein said data transmitting device transmits data corresponding to the attachment file portion of the E-mail received by the E-mail receiving device.*
- *further comprising a converting device converting the attachment file portion of the E-mail received by the E-mail receiving device into data of a format acceptable to the image output device; wherein, said data transmitting device transmits the data after the conversion by said converting device.* (Miller, col.1, lines 47-58; col.3, lines 33-38; col.5, lines 22-27; fig.4(g, h, i); fig.4(m))

Miller teaches of an environment where an email addressed to an addressee (i.e. subscriber) from the Internet is received at the service controller and a receipt notification is selectively generated and delivered to the addressee.

Furthermore, Miller anticipates that the notification message may contain the body of the email text. Miller shows in figures 4(i) and 4(m) that the attachments are listed separately to allow the subscriber the ability to retrieve it if desired after converting the attachment to the appropriate format.

25. With regard to claims 6-7 and 20-21, Miller and Theimer disclose,

- *wherein said data transmitting device transmits the data corresponding to the attachment file portion of the E-mail received by the E-mail receiving device.*

(Miller, col.1, lines 47-58; col.3, lines 33-38; col.5, lines 22-27; fig.4(g, h, i); fig.4(m))

Miller teaches of an environment where an email addressed to an addressee (i.e. subscriber) from the Internet is received at the service controller and a receipt notification is selectively generated and delivered to the addressee.

Furthermore, Miller anticipates that the notification message may contain the body of the email text. Miller shows in figures 4(i) and 4(m) that the attachments are listed separately to allow the subscriber the ability to retrieve it if desired after converting the attachment to the appropriate format.

26. With regard to claims 8-11, 22-25, and 28-29, Miller and Theimer disclose,

- *wherein said selecting device selects image output devices within a certain distance from said destination.* (Miller, col.1, lines 47-58; col.3, lines 33-38; col.5, lines 22-27; col.6, lines 9-19; fig.4(g, h, i); fig.4(m))

Miller teaches of a step of listing the available retrieval methods and allowing the subscriber to choose the desired delivery method.

- *wherein said selecting device selects an image output device closest from said destination.* (Miller, col.1, lines 47-58; col.3, lines 33-38; col.5, lines 22-27; col.6, lines 9-19; fig.4(g, h, i); fig.4(m))

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- Miller teaches of a step of listing the available retrieval methods and allowing the subscriber to choose the desired delivery method.
- *wherein said selecting device including:*
 - *a list preparing device preparing a list of image output devices within a certain distance from said destination;*
 - *a list transmitting device transmitting the list prepared by said list preparing device to said destination; and*
 - *a selection instruction receiving device receiving an instruction for specifying one of the image output devices in the list. (Miller, col.1, lines 47-58; col.3, lines 33-38; col.5, lines 22-27; col.6, lines 9-19; fig.4(g, h, i); fig.4(m))*

Miller teaches of a step of listing the available retrieval methods and allowing the subscriber to choose the desired delivery method.

27. With regard to claims 12-13, 26-27, and 30, Miller and Theimer disclose,

- *wherein said data transmitting device transmits the data to an image output device specified by a telephone number. (Miller, col.1, lines 47-58; col.3, lines 33-38; col.5, lines 22-27; fig.4(g, h, i); fig.4(m))*

Miller teaches of a plurality of delivery methods such as email, fax, messaging, voice, etc. Alternative methods of delivering the data include the Internet, printer, display, etc.

Response to Arguments

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28. Applicant's arguments with respect to *claims 1-46* have been considered but are not persuasive.

29. With regard to *claims 1*, the Applicants point out that:

- *The cited passage does not provide a location information acquiring device for acquiring location information of said destination, a selecting device for selecting one of multiple image output devices on the basis of the location information inquired by said position inquiring device, and a notifying device that sends an email to said destination containing a notification of the image output device selected by said selecting device as recited in independent claim 1.*

However, the Examiner finds that the Applicants' arguments are not persuasive because Miller teaches of step of locating the addressee (i.e. subscriber) "*according to the rules he [has] previously established (or defaulted to, as appropriate)*" (Miller, col.5, lines 2-3). According to Miller, "*the ability for a user (recipient) to define a set of rules that determine how/when messages and their notification are to be treated ... such as a permanent rule (SMS notification to Thomas' handset) and a vacation rule (e.g., hold messages but notify Thomas at his hotel telephone), ... etc., are easily envisioned and implemented as appropriate*" (Miller, col.4, lines 49-60). In addition to the established rules, the fact that the message was delivered to the user via the wireless device is evidence that the user was located. When the user receives the message notifying of the impending e-mail and attachments, the user can choose the appropriate outputting device. Hence, Miller describes a method of locating the subscriber via established rules, in addition to the actual wireless device,

and determining the appropriate outputting device to which the notification message is directed.

Conclusion

30. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas Duong whose telephone number is 571/272-3911. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30AM - 4:00PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason D. Cardone can be reached on 571/272-3933. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 571/273-8300 for regular communications and 571/273-8300 for After Final communications.

Thomas Duong (AU2145)

March 15, 2006



Jason D. Cardone

Supervisory PE (AU2145)